

# APRIL 2025 Newsletter

## LAGUNA DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

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### Upcoming Events

- 4/15** - Clan Exchange
- 4/16** - EHS Easter Activities
- 4/17** - PHS Easter Activities
- 4/22** - Earth Day Litter Hunt
- 4/18** - *No School* - Good Friday
- 4/29** - Parent Education Meeting



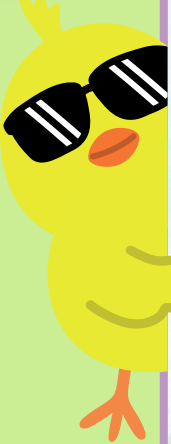
### What's Inside

#### EHS

- Sunnyside
- Chinatown
- New York
- Turquoise Springs '

#### PHS

- Paguate
- Casa Blanca
- Village
- Encinal
- Seama
- Family Service Providers
- Health
- Support Services
- Program Assistant
- ERSEA
- Social Worker



# Families of DEC



Hello! We are The Fernando Family; we are a family of 5. Our names are Ariam, Amira, and Araminta Fernando. Our parents are Hannah and Dwight Fernando. We live in the Pueblo of Acoma.

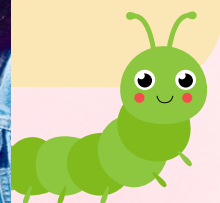
During the last month our family has gotten a dog. We are very excited, as this is the kids' first time having a dog of their own. They named her Baela. We are teaching them the responsibilities of caring for a dog. Every morning and evening they each take turns feeding and giving Baela water. With the weather getting nicer, we are starting to go on evening walks or taking Baela to the dog park. We are very happy to have Baela become a part of our family and to watch her grow along side the kids.

In the years our children have attended DEC, we have seen a great amount of development. They have learned how to count their numbers from 1-12 and learned the colors of the rainbow and more. They have also learned how to recognize the letters of their name and how to write/spell it. Their biggest development is how to manage their emotions and to complete certain tasks like cleaning up after themselves, helping their peers, and communicating using their words. Dwight and I are very proud of our children and how far they have come.

Our family chose DEC because they are very welcoming and accepting. They have helped provide their services to our family and have continuously supported the needs of our children. DEC has become like a second family to us, mostly to our children. They love going to school every day and connecting with their teachers and friends. They always come home with positive things to say about their day and what they have learned, which makes us happy with our choice to have them attend DEC! We look forward to having them continue their education with The Pueblo of Laguna.

Thank you to all the staff of DEC for the wonderful dedication and support to our family and also to the other families of DEC. Keep up the great work, you are all doing an amazing job no matter what role you play, big or small! Lastly a big THANK YOU to Ms. Peacock & Ms. Whitmore of Village Class, Ms. Eveyln & Ms. Angela of Paguate Class, and Ms. Juana & Ms. Raina of Encinal Class.

-The Fernando's





# Families of DEC

Some achievements for Pearl is having a baby sister, loving going to school and enjoying learning. The family has noticed her writing, coloring has improved so much. She's counting her numbers more. She even recognizes numbers and letters everywhere we go.

We choose DEC to have a good start to learning. What I like most about DEC is pearl gets to learn about everything from letters and numbers all the way to language.

Pearls teachers sends letters and calls when something happens. All the staff is very nice and works with the families the best they can.

Adrianna Munger

# Families of DEC

Our family has come a long way as well as other families out there. We're happy to add a new little addition to our family and it seems like time is really flying by because our baby of the family will be 9 months. She has a wonderful older brother and sister. Edlena is a great little teacher, best friend, and a little helper when it comes to her sister and I'm so proud of her bubbly personality. My son loves to share new things he learned in school with both his sisters along with making sure they know the house rules. With work, being a mother, a caregiver, and a part time student myself, I can honestly say we are all working together to achieve our goals. This month my oldest is turning another year older and baseball season starts for my littles so we are all excited for that.

I have seen my children improve so much with their vocabulary, learning responsibilities like chores and helping one another around the house and being motivated for education. Edlena amazes me with her healthy shopping skills, using large words, learning how to change her sister's diapers (she now wants to change only the wet ones) and most of all being the best big sister there is. My son impressed me on his educational levels going up each term, learning more about teamwork along with sportsmanship and how he is always wanting to exercise (I do not know how he has the motivation to do that cause I can't.).

I chose DEC because I wanted my children to be closer to home and get to know our people more. They say, "It takes a village to raise a child," and that is true, if it was not for DEC helping me teach my children then I do not know what I would have done. I appreciate DEC staff so much because without their help my children wouldn't have achieved and grown this much with educational knowledge. I love a lot of the family involvement and getting to see the children being themselves during events. These children have been through a lot since the pandemic and DEC did their best to help us get our children in every way they could. That's why I am excited for my soon to be 1 year old to start this coming school year.

I wanna give a shout out to all the staff there for helping me in every way and solving problems when directed. A major shout out to the teachers because I know that it is not that easy teaching a classroom of children. You are all doing an amazing job with our children, so pat yourself on the back and know you are all appreciated for the work you are doing. You've all done a great job with my children and I see it everyday. I see the love and passion when I visit the school and it's amazing and very welcoming. Thank you from my family to you all.

- The Carr Family





# Families of DEC

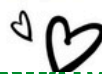
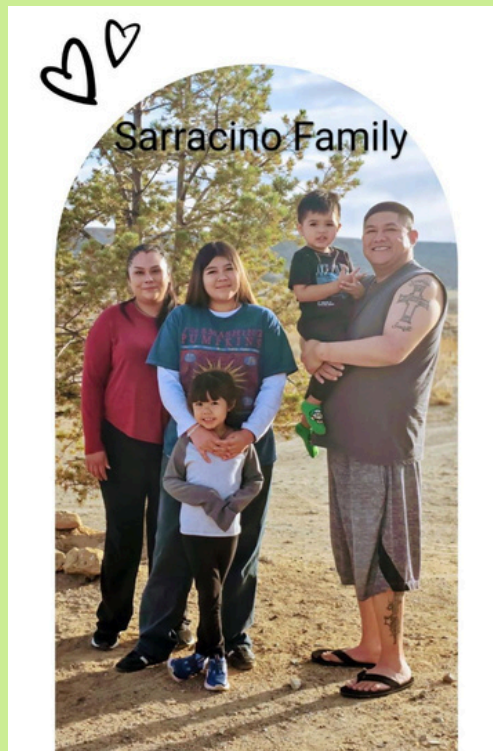
This year has been full of exciting milestones for our family, and we couldn't be more thrilled to share them. One of the biggest highlights has been the purchase of our brand-new home! After months we found the perfect place to settle into and create new memories.

As the school year began, Brooklyn set a personal goal: to become an independent reader. With determination and hard work, she is now able to read on her own. Watching her grow and achieve this goal has been one of the most rewarding moments of the year.

We also made the decision to choose DEC for Brooklyn's education, and we couldn't be happier with our choice. We know that DEC provides a safe, nurturing environment where Brooklyn feels supported. Many of the staff members are familiar faces—family members who work there—creating a comforting and familiar atmosphere. The school's culture aligns with our values, and we truly appreciate the sense of community it provides.

It's been an unforgettable year of growth, new beginnings, and gratitude, and we look forward to the next chapter with excitement!

– The Sarracino's



# Families of DEC

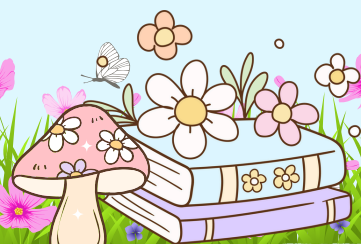
Hello everyone, my name is Corey Taylor Martin and I am from the Village of Mesita where I live with my parents, Candi Scott and Stuart Martin, my older brothers named Zacari, and Joseph, and my grandmother Ethelrine Fernando. I also have older siblings named Camren, Elijah and Keira. I want to share an interesting fact about how my family: we advocate for my brother Joseph, who is Autistic, every year for the month of April and on April 2nd, we participate in "Light it Up Blue" day. We also get together with other family members and we eat and play games. One milestone that I was happy to be a part of was when my mom graduated from NMSU with her Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education and is currently working on her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

One very noticeable development that we as Corey's family have seen is how he is not so shy as he was when first starting at DEC and he has become more verbal in telling stories or playing with his toys. His motor skills have also improved such as his handwriting, drawing and being able to use scissors with minimal supervision. When it comes to working on class projects, he gets so excited and anxious to get started. His speech has improved so much as well to where he can speak clearly, he knows how to use correct working and proper grammar such as verbs and nouns.

We chose to send Corey to DEC because we wanted him to start off his educational path within a safe, caring and cultural environment. We felt it was important for young children to be able to learn and thrive in a space that was set for them. With DEC incorporating our cultural traditions, we have noticed Corey wanting to be more involved with our culture and he'll speak words that he learned at school, or he'll ask how to say different words such as with colors and animals.

We would like to thank all the teachers and staff members who have helped Corey over the course of his educational journey. He has learned so much and we feel he is ready to continue onto the next stages in that journey. Yes, us as a family play a role in helping our children but educators work just as hard to help our children take their first steps into an educational world. So again, thank you all for your hard work, continued support and for always showing the children love :

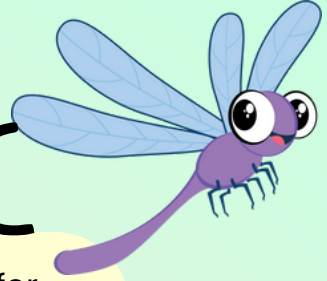
-The Martin Family







# Families of DEC

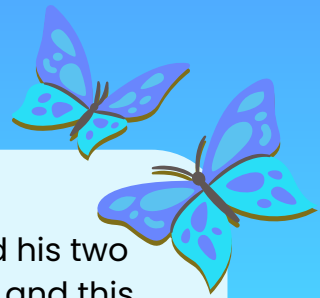


Greetings, Thank you to the Laguna Division of Early Childhood for considering our family for the April newsletter. This was exciting news to receive. We would like to introduce ourselves, we are Shaine and Coltyn Ansera, proud parents to Grayson Ansera, who celebrated his 5th birthday recently. Grayson's newest Baby sister who was born a few months ago, just learned how to roll over and smile at her brother in time for his birthday! Grayson has made some great improvements in his development since he began attending DEC. Some major improvements include Grayson learning to spell his first name out loud and learning to write his name on paper. He has also Improved his social skills and has found it easier to talk with his fellow students and his teachers using longer sentences and asking questions. We choose DEC for Grayson because we liked that the school put an emphasis on teaching our language and culture to the students, and using it within the classroom. One of the greatest things for our family has been the care that all the staff and teachers at DEC show towards Grayson even outside of the classroom. We would also like to send a special thank you for Ms. Kayla and Ms. Carol, along with Ms. Tiffany and Mr. Michael for making each day a special day for Grayson. Thank you again for this opportunity to share a part of our family with everyone. We really enjoy all that the school provides and we are happy to have our other children attend and learn from the awesome and caring staff at the Laguna Division of Early Childhood.

-The Ansera Family



# Families of DEC



Hello Friends & Families,

We are Katelyn Riley and Vernon Coin. We are the parents of Liam and his two older brothers Hayden and Tyrann. Liam has attended DEC for 3 years and this year is his last year at DEC before he transitions to kindergarten in June. We've seen Liam be more independent around our home and in the classroom, we can understand him verbally by him telling his siblings what to do, his name writing really improved by writing his name on our walls, and also saying his numbers up to 100. We were told Liam is one to help his teachers and friends in his classroom.

We chose DEC because, it gives Liam the opportunity to learn more about his culture and language, a start to interact with children, and we feel it's more convenient and safer. We enjoy his stories about what he had learned for the day, the activities they have them do, and the arts and crafts he brings home. Liam looks forward to and is very excited he gets to attend school and ride the bus with his brothers for the upcoming school year, but mostly to play baseball. We had asked him what he'll miss about DEC, he mentioned his teachers and his best friend D. Lorenzo. We would like to send a shout out to his Teacher's Juana and Raina. Thank you for your time, patience and effort that you've had with ALL three of our boys 😊

Have a great rest of your school year!

Regards,

Riley & Coin Family





# FAMILIES OF DEC



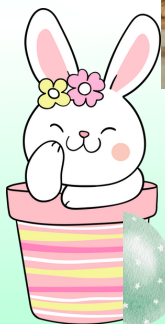
Hello Everyone, My name is Connor Riley. My parents are Candice and Cody. We live in the village of Old Laguna. My family has had a few milestones we have achieved. My sister and brothers and I have been constantly attending school every day. We are currently expecting a baby sister in June. We are all excited of her arrival.

Some developments we've seen in Connor as a family, is him attending and enjoying going to school. Making friends. Reading a lot of books at home and encouraging his older sister and brothers to read with him. Also talking a lot more at school. He's no longer too quiet in class.

A couple of reasons why we chose DEC was because of the location being close to home. Also we wanted Connor to be taught our culture not only at home but at school, along with other children his age, so our traditions can live on. Connor likes the Staff, Teachers and Bus Drivers. He says everyone is friendly and always greets him at school or outside of school.

We would love to give a shout out to all the Staff, Teachers, and Bus Drivers for always going above and beyond for all the kids and parents/guardians making the environment comfortable for everyone. Also the cooks for always preparing the food for our children. Connor always has a good review on what he ate at school. A personal shout out to Ms. Juana and Miss Raina for always making Connor's day and teaching him so much and coming home to tell his family stories about school and everything he learned that day. Also another personal shout out to Ms. Yvonne for driving the kiddos to and from school safely everyday and always having a smile on her face. Connor enjoys his bus rides in the mornings. Connor will forever remember all of you and keep you all close.

We are greatly appreciated to be given this opportunity as a young, growing family. Thank you again and best of wishes to you all. The Riley Family.



# Families of DEC

Hello,

My name is Mikel-Shane Leon and this year I am in the Seama class. I am 4 years old, I'm born on May 5th. My parents are Shantel Analla and Kyle Leon. My older siblings are Danielle-Marie and Tony Leon. This whole year has already been an exciting year with big adjustments. Things that are fairly new to us is my dad getting a job with the tribe with emergency management specialist. Next is my mom still working at the Laguna rainbow center and will be going to test for her medication license. My brother and sister are still going to Santa Fe Indian School but now my sister is playing for a national volleyball club team and my brother is playing baseball for the school. When they play sports it makes me happy because I get to cheer really loud for them. Another fairly new milestone for my family is moving into a new house. Most recently though is I added a new family member which is my pet rabbit Oreo. Rabbits are my favorite. Not only is my new pet my comfort but it is also teaching me responsibilities.

Since being at DEC my family has told me they noticed my improvement in tracing letters and shapes. They have also noticed that my enthusiasm for wanting to count objects has grown, and now even adding objects together to count them as well.

My family not only chose DEC to keep the tradition going from my older siblings both promoting from the school but to keep me apart of the Laguna community. They also like how much the school emphasizes our culture and language into our curriculum. The choice was also a lot easier when we knew my brother Grayson and sister Maya-Lynn were attending.

We would like to give a huge thank you to all DEC staff for their hard work with all the students. We would also like to send a huge thank you to teacher Kayla, teacher carol, Ms. Yvonne and Ms. Mariah for individualizing my education, making a lasting impact on me and always showing me your love.

My family and I would like to thank DEC for giving us the opportunity. We've really enjoyed every moment of this journey.





# SUNNYSIDE

**March:** The children explored and chose the type of paintbrush they wanted to paint with on paper and the sidewalk. The children knew how to use the small brooms to sweep the floor. Children learn by observing what we do.

**Creative Curriculum:** For the month of April, we are looking forward to exploring and discovering ways to use containers. What types of containers do we use in the classroom? What types of objects will fit into the containers? We will do fun activities to help with the discoveries and uses.

**Home activities:** Look around in your home and discover the different types of containers you have. Show your child how you use containers, such as storing food, and objects. Give them the opportunity to help store food or objects in containers.

**Social-Emotional:** The children are engaging in back-and-forth conversations with each other at meal times.

**Cultural lifeways:** Easter activities. The children will identify their Kawaika clans using the pictures on the clan poster. Teachers will point out the children's clans and say them in Keres.

**Words for the month:** Easter, basket, clans, egg, easter pudding, purple.

**Conscious Discipline:** The children use the Safe Place to regulate themselves and to relax.

## Achievements & Milestones

- K.L. Looks at peers when named
- N.P. Helps to pull pants up during potty time
- J. P. Looks at books intentionally: looking at pictures
- M.M. Is building his vocabulary, saying words
- K.G. Uses sign language and words during a conflict (stop)
- S.A. Moves around the room by scooting
- E.W. Is adjusting to the routines

Children engage in teacher-led activities. Working one-on-one.

**Reminders to parents:** Look in your child's folder for information. Monitor symptoms of illness when they are not feeling well. They feel more comfortable at home.

**Parent tip(s):** Help your child to explore things around them by taking them on a walk or wagon ride. Play with your child and offer help – "Let's do it together".

# Chinatown

**Color:** Pink

**Culture:** Easter Activities

**Curriculum:** Containers

**Nutrition:** Kiwi and Raspberry  
Flowers

**STEAM:** Exploring Soil

**Teachers:** Caundice Deutsawe & Royce Kie

**Email:** c.deutsawe@lagunaed.net /  
r.kie@lagunaed.net

**Phone:** (505) 552-6544 Ext. 5200

Happy Spring!

I hope all survived the windy month of March. I think we can all agree that we had enough wind for the rest of the year.

The weather did give us the opportunity to learn about wind. Children definitely could hear the wind blowing things around from inside the classroom. They experienced the fine sand that swirled between the classrooms and how it gathered.

I can say the wind was beneficial to our BRUSH study as we used the brooms to sweep the sand back outside that blew into the classroom.

We experimented with the different types of paint brushes. We included problem solving skills as we asked if our toothbrushes and hair brushes could be used to clean up the sand. Yes, they but it may take a while and we wouldn't want to use to brush our teeth after.

For April, children will be learning about CONTAINERS. While using their hands and problem-solving skills, they will practice opening different types of containers. They will increase their counting skills as they count how many objects can fit in large and small containers. They will also gain knowledge about how containers are used.

At home, you can point out how you store food in your containers or different ways you use containers to keep your collectables and hobby items, and how you store winter and summer clothes.

With Easter approaching, we will also be talking about our big and little clans. The children will be engaging in some fun spring crafts and activities.





# New York

Teachers: Sandra Lewis & Kay-Mani Riley  
s.lewis@lagunaed.net / km.riley@laguned.net  
(505) 552-6544 Ext. 5107

## March

**Creative Curriculum:** Our children were able to identify the different types and the different uses of each brush they were able to explore in the classroom.

**Achievements:** In the classroom, we have three children in underwear and two more following along. Our children also remember to brush their teeth and are in full knowledge of the routine. They started to remind us about steps we missed throughout the day.

### March Birthdays:

- E.S. - 3/03
- A.L. - 3/07

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

- E. R. 4/13

## April

**Creative Curriculum:** This month we are focusing on Containers. We will explore the different sizes and shapes of containers, and what we can hold in them. We will have numerous activities of how we can use the containers at home and at school.

**Cultural Lifeways:** Pah'shuuna (Purple) this is our color of the month. During the month of March, we will also talk about all the different vocabulary we will be using regarding Easter, (Kawaika Hanu, Easter Pudding, and Clans). The children will learn and be able to identify their Kawaika Hanu.

**CLASS:** Teachers will continue to use the repetition of visuals and key words about our focus of the month. Teachers will also include many hands-on activities to keep children engaged in the learning environment.

**Conscious Discipline:** Power of Intention – learning from our mistakes

**Health/Nutrition Activities:** Kiwi and Raspberry Flowers – 4/16

**Goals:** Getting used to a new morning routine with the help of our therapist recommendations to help children stay engaged.

# Turquoise Springs

## April

We will study “Containers” by showing the children a variety of them, what we can place in them, what they are made of, and look at pictures of the bigger containers that communities use to transfer items. In our classroom, we have containers on the bottom of our cubbies holding our extra clothes. We will practice repeating the word “container”.

**Conscious Discipline:** The Power of intention. We will work on teaching the children that it is ok to make mistakes, and that we can fix those mistakes. We can grow together to fix the things we do and use phrases such as, “uh oh let’s try again” or “it’s ok, let’s try a different way”.

**Cultural Lifeways:** Wild Onions/Celery. With the weather being so cold and windy, we did not have a chance to go out beyond the campus to look for wild herbs. We used pictures to see images of the herbs. We discussed the many different herbs that we find in the wild that we can pick, clean, and use at home for cooking/eating.

**Easter Activities:** We will discuss the clans, how we feed our little clans, and enjoy all the yummy treats we receive during this time of year, along with creating colorful artwork.

## Goals/Achievements

J.V. has been working very hard on potty training. Yay!

With all the children in the classroom we are still working on using more of our words to tell teachers of our wants and needs.

·Thank you, parents/families for helping your child in any way you can at home, whether it be with using their words, taking turns/sharing of items, reading books, having small discussions about the book you are reading, and coming to school.

## Contact Information

**Teachers:** Candice Lucero and Mariou Arkie

**Email:** [c.lucero@lagunaed.net](mailto:c.lucero@lagunaed.net) / [m.arkie@lagunaed.net](mailto:m.arkie@lagunaed.net)

**Phone:** 505-552-6544 ext. 5202



# PAGUATE

## March

Thank you all for participating in the parent-teacher conferences. It was wonderful to meet with you, share the progress of your children, and have more understanding on how your children are developing. The stories you shared and conversations we had are kept in our "treasure box" for safekeeping!

The month of March came and went, nearly as fast as those large gusts of wind. Your children had fun learning about pets, caring for, and noticing the similarities and differences of a variety of animals. We appreciate our families lending of pet dishes, water dishes, pet food, and animal collages. It brought an authentic feel to our classroom, especially with some friends pretending to be cats!

As our days grow warmer and longer, our classroom will be spending more time outside. Please send a hat for your child to wear outside. Also, if your child takes their water bottle home, please wash and return it on Mondays. It helps us out a lot!

## April

This month we will be studying Gardening—a natural study filled with opportunities to enhance our science, math, social studies, literacy, and language skills. Our children naturally enjoy playing with dirt and getting messy. If you are able to lend any gardening tools such as hand shovels, gloves, or hand rakes, we would sincerely appreciate it and take care of and return them at the end of the month.

Also, if you are able to donate any seeds, we will use them to grow in our classroom garden; they could be vegetables or flower seeds.

Please remember to look in your child's folder for upcoming events. We will have Easter activities such as making Easter Pudding and having an Easter Egg Hunt (parents are welcome to help hide the eggs).

Thank you all again for meeting with us and helping us be a part of your children's life!

# Casa Blanca



Greetings and salutations to our Head Start Family. One of the things that we have noticed is how fast it seems that our school year is moving to the end. Pretty soon, we will be in the summer months and move on to the next school year! However, we are not there yet. So we shall continue to work and play with our children.

As I said before, March seemed like it was here and gone. With spring break, it was a short month and it was nice to have a week off to recollect ourselves. In our classroom, we are continuing to work on our social/emotional skills. The children are communicating a lot more with each other. They are learning that good choices have positive consequences and bad choices have bad consequences. They are learning to control self-gratification by waiting their turn to play with toys.

We are just about nearing the end with our letter train. We used the letters O, P, Q, and R. As we move into April, we will continue with the letter S. As we move forward with our letter recognition, the children are slowly beginning to understand that letters make words, especially in their names. We are showing progress on writing and recognizing letters in our names.

As I write this, we are beginning our celebration of Dr. Seuss Week. We will be reading books, doing activities, and generally honoring the works of this author. We began by creating a fish bowl for our fish (One Fish, Two Fish...). We will continue with making our green eggs and ham by combining paints. Wacky Wednesday is our theme and I will hope to surprise our children with a wacky classroom. Thursday will be Cat in the Hat day with us making the cool red and white hats. On Friday, we will end our celebration with the Dr. Seuss Book Parade. Wow! What a month.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Ms. Yvonne or me here at the school. Our number is 505-552-6544, ext. 5113. You can also contact us through email. [g.levantonio@lagunaed.net](mailto:g.levantonio@lagunaed.net) / [y.francis@lagunaed.net](mailto:y.francis@lagunaed.net)

Thank you and have a wonderful April.

Mr. Levantonio  
Ms. Yvonne

As we move into April, it is about that time to start looking for the wild celery and onions that grow out in the pastures. Just remember that when you venture out to be aware of all the critters that may be waking up, especially those that slither on the ground. It is, however, one my favorite pastime activities. So enjoy and get outdoors.

We also will be getting ready for Easter through our traditional ways here in Laguna. I will be getting with families with what clans the children are. That way we can explain to the classroom how we go about the Easter tradition. So if you are a big roadrunner, just know that Mr. Levantonio will be waiting for his Easter goodies.

Finally, our theme for the month of April will be Gardening. It is also that time of year to consider what types of plants and foods to grow. We will be planting in the small garden outside of our classroom. We just have not decided what to grow at this time. It may be traditional foods or it could be plants and flowers. Whatever we decide, you, as families, are more than welcome to share your gardening expertise with the classroom. Just make contact with Ms. Yvonne or me on when we can schedule a time and day. Remember, anytime you volunteer your time to our classroom and to the school, it provides In-Kind to our program. So please, let us know when you would like to volunteer some of your time.

On that note, please remember to read books to your children. Reading is a critical developmental skill that your child needs to develop at an early age. Do not be afraid to make the story as dramatic as you can. Believe me, the children love that type of reading. Read the newspaper, magazine articles, cookbook recipes, and anything else to your child as much as you can. When you finish reading to your child, log all of it in their reading log. Again, it all goes back to In-Kind which our program really needs.





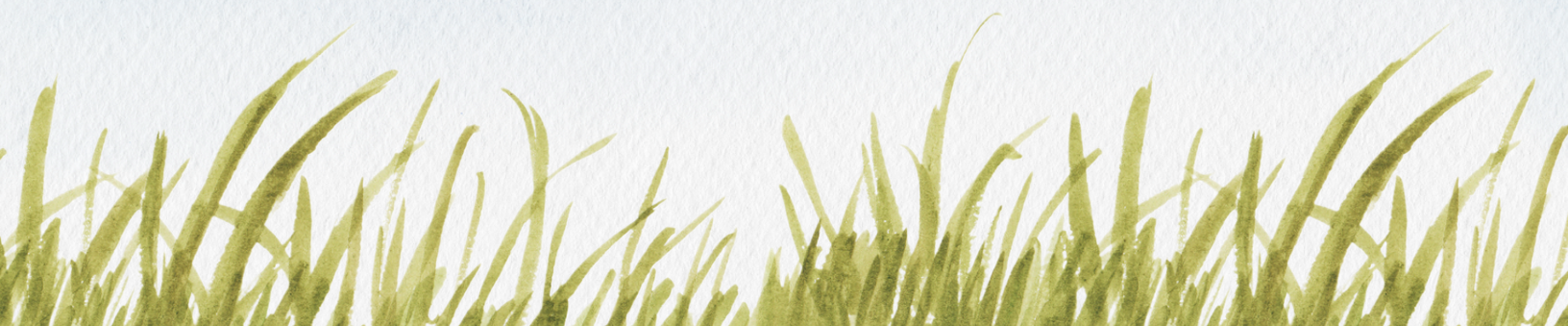
# Village

## Greetings from the Village Room

For the Month of April our themes are gardening and learning about our Clans. Spring is in the air, as we begin our gardening study. You may be thinking that this is the perfect time to start a garden with the children in your preschool class or at home and asking yourself questions such as "what can the children learn through gardening?" and most importantly, "where should we begin?"

From digging, planting to watering and weeding, gardening offers a variety of opportunities for hands-on exploration. We all know that many children enjoy playing in the dirt. When young children plant a garden, they experience the satisfaction of seeing their care and nourishment result in to a growing garden. As they follow their curiosity and implement their own ideas, the children will build confidence in themselves and discover what plants need to grow. Gardening with children is not only fun and engaging, it also supports the development of the whole child.

We will also be learning about our traditional clan of who we are as native people, during our Easter celebrations.





# Encinal

**Conscious Discipline:** We will talk about the Power of Intention in class. The children and teachers will focus on problem-solving to create a positive and supportive learning environment.

**Cultural lifeways:** The children will learn to identify their Laguna clan, big and little (Kawaika hanu), and how Easter pudding is made by helping measure, pour, and mix the ingredients.

**Creative Curriculum:** For April, the theme is seeds and will run for the whole month. Seeds are fascinating! They can be found in many places and come in many different shapes and sizes. Seeds make many major appearances in our everyday lives: we eat them, plant them, remove the fruits, grind them, harvest them, and use them to create art and music. Children will have opportunities to share their knowledge, examine seeds in new ways, and experiment with them.

**Nutrition Activity:** The children will make kiwi and raspberry flowers using the following ingredients: peeled kiwi, and 4 raspberries. The children will place the raspberries on top of the kiwi to make a flower. Have your child show you how to make the rainbow at home for a healthy snack.

**Student achievements/milestones:** The children have been working on spelling their first and last names. 25% of the children can spell their first and last names without looking, 47% can spell their first name, and 28% need some help of the letters in their name.

## Reminder to parents:

·PLEASE send your child in a light jacket and a hat if they don't have a hood. The weather is constantly changing and we want them to be warm. PLEASE send a hat and a water bottle for the days that the sun is shining.

·If your child is sick or showing symptoms, PLEASE keep them home, if they are out for more than three days get them seen by a doctor and bring an excuse upon returning to school. PLEASE be mindful of other children and teachers in the classroom!

·Continue to check your child's bag/folder DAILY as notes are sent home and send the folders back as well.

## Parent tips:

- Read to your child for at least 10-15 minutes. Don't forget to write it on their Reading Log! 😊
- Reading to your child helps them recognize letters and words to help them read.

## Birthday:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TEACHER RAINA!!!

4/1

The background of the entire page is decorated with various colorful butterflies in shades of blue, purple, and pink, along with small pink and purple flowers. The word "Seama" is written in a large, stylized font with a blue outline and a pink shadow.

# Seama

Greetings Seama Room Families,

we hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable spring break. First, we would like to thank our parents for attending parent-teacher conferences. We were able to complete all 16 before spring break. We would also like to thank our families for your continued support in your child's education by donating items to the class, attending field trips, and participating in school events. These are memorable moments in your children's lives. In March, we learned about grocery stores. The children had fun learning about different sections in a store, different jobs in a store, and how to purchase items. Our classroom store was a success, and it was fun to play store. Our field trip to Sprouts brought our study of grocery stores to life.

Children can now tell the difference between a barcode and a QR code. They can help plan a grocery list and understand that you need money to purchase something.

Our theme is seeds. Children will learn about planting and the process it takes to grow plants such as flowers, fruits, or vegetables. The children will learn how to take care of a plant and understand why plants are important. They will investigate the process and collect data on the growth of different plants. Towards the end of the month, children will visit Laguna Elementary School for a transition visit. This will allow them to visit the kindergarten classrooms and interact with the teachers and students. Can you believe it? We are three months away from our preschool transition. Side note: Continue to work with children at home on writing their first and last name. Practice writing numbers and doing simple addition problems at home. We are looking forward to April events.

**Happy Birthday:**  
4/14 J.S

### **Reminder to parents:**

- Send water bottle
- Reminder to call the school if children will not be attending school for the day.
- Reminder to check backpacks and blue folders daily.
- Update contact information if any changes.

# FAMILY SERVICE PROVIDERS NEWSLETTER

## April News

### At Home Activity:

ALL DEC children will receive materials to make a decoration for their home. We ask that you please fill out the in-kind form and return it back to school.

## Reminders

Family Service Providers will continue family contacts. We are available for community resources and parent assistance.

## Contact Info

### Family Service Providers:

Tiffany Touchin, Kathleen Herrera  
& Venessa Deutsawe  
Phone: 552-6544



# Clan Lunch Exchange

## April 15, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.

### in the DEC Plaza Area

#### Event

DEC will be planning a clan lunch exchange for all children to participate. Due to DEC Food Policy we ask that all baskets and/or bowls be prepared with healthy prepackaged items.

Typically, we exchange between specific clans, however that does not always work out. Children will exchange (1) basket and /or bowl with another child of any clan.

If there are any questions regarding food items, please feel free to reach out to the program to receive clarification.

#### Credited Food Items

##### Crackers:

Whole Grain - Ritz, Goldfish, cheese-Itz, Saltines, Wheat Thins, pretzels, graham crackers, Tricuits, Club crackers, Harvest Crisps, Chicken in a Biskit, Cheese Nips, Air Crisps, Cinnamon Goldfish.

##### Fruit:

Fresh fruit  
Fruit cup (packed in water not syrup)  
Applesauce cup (No sugar added)  
100% juice box (No sugar added)  
Cherry tomatoes

##### Cheese:

String Cheese  
Cheese Cubes  
(No Cheese Spread)

#### Contact Info

Laguna Preschool Head Start

Phone: (505) 552-6544

# SAVE ENERGY

DEC Parent Education

## How You Can Get Involved:

- Conserve Energy
- Conserve Water
- Reducing Waste
- Follow Eco-Friendly Efforts
- Community Village clean-up



**April 29, 2025**

**Time: 9:30a.m**

**Location: West Modular**

Join our Parent Education and the first 10 parents to RSVP will receive a GIFT.



**RSVP By: April 21, 2025**

**RSVP Contact information:**

**Tiffany Touchin**

**@ 505-220-2549**

**Feel free to call or text**



# Health Aid

Greetings families,

I hope you all are well and in good spirits. A few friendly reminders and upcoming events to be aware of:

- Please monitor your children at home for any symptoms they may be experiencing and keep them home if they do not feel well.
- Seasonal allergies have been rough for most people this year and may continue to be, the image contains some helpful tips to minimize symptoms.
- Please send in copies of your child's/children's latest well child checkup and updated immunization records if you have not yet done so. These can be turned in to front office personnel.
- World Health Day is on April 7th. The campaign, titled Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures, will urge governments and the health community to ramp up efforts to end preventable maternal and newborn deaths, and to prioritize women's longer-term health and well-being.
- World Immunization Week is April 24-30th. This campaign aims to promote the life-saving power of immunization to protect people of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- April is National Minority Health Month! This annual observance builds awareness about the health disparities that persist among racial and ethnic minority and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations and encourages us to take action to end these inequities.

Angelica Baca  
DEC Health Aide



## fight seasonal allergies

### 8 tips to minimize allergy symptoms



Stay inside  
when it's dry  
and windy



Limit your time  
around grass  
and trees



Wash clothes  
after being  
outside



Bathe or shower  
after being  
outside



Keep doors  
and windows  
closed



Use a  
HEPA filter



Vacuum  
often



Flush sinuses  
with nasal rinse

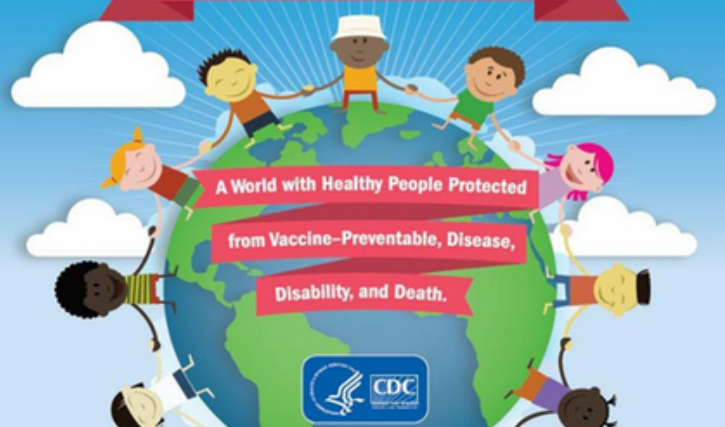
Get more tips on fighting allergies at [childrens.com/allergies](http://childrens.com/allergies)

children'shealth?



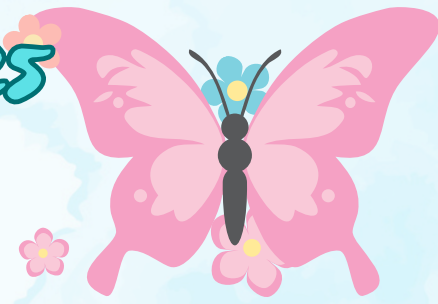
NATIONAL  
MINORITY  
HEALTH  
MONTH

### WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK





# Support Services Coordinator



## EARLY LEARNING

Children are learning so much in their daily interactions in their classrooms—with their teachers and interactions with their peers.

We appreciate working with families to maximize each child's learning potential. We want to remind families if there are any concerns that you may have regarding your child's learning, DEC staff are available to work with families to address concerns at any time within the program year.

EARLY TALK – Shapes a Child's Life.

DID YOU KNOW—In the first few years of life...

\*Exposure to early language, in particular interactive talk, is one of the strongest predictors of brain development?

\*The number of back-and-forth conversations (conversation turns) children experience, relates with brain activity/structure.

**Use these tips to increase words & turns when talking, reading, or singing with your child.**

1. Talk about what you're doing and thinking.
2. Comment on what they are doing or looking at.
3. Name things that they are interested in.
4. Get down to their level: face to face.
5. Touch, hug, hold.
6. Tune in and respond to what they look at, do, or say.
7. Wait for their response, give them time to reply.
8. Imitate them, and add more words.
9. Make faces, use gestures.
10. Take turns—don't do all the talking.
11. Repeat and add to what they say and do.
12. Follow their lead, do what interests them.
13. Encourage them, be positive.
14. Be silly!

RELAX and HAVE FUN!



# Social Worker

The following is an excerpt from Conscious Discipline, DEC's social-emotional learning curriculum on Conscious Discipline's M.A.P technique for breaking down instructions into easy-to-follow directions for your child. If you struggle at times with helping your children begin to learn how to be helpers around the house, pick-up after themselves, or how to share instructions verbally or visually with your child so that they understand them, then this article is for you! Practice of M.A.P can help build trust, independence, and instill a sense of accomplishment in your child that will help them blossom as little helpers around the house, as well as all their future project based skills at DEC and beyond .

**–Marc Paley, LCSW at Laguna Department of Early Childhood**

**Questions on social-emotional learning for your child? Contact Marc, our new school social worker at 505-240-1450 or [m.paley@lagunaed.net](mailto:m.paley@lagunaed.net).**

CD for Parents: Teaching Children How to Follow Directions

Posted on July 30, 2017 by Fran Rubio-Katz

Teaching children how to follow directions can be a frustrating endeavor. One reason is that we rarely break directions into a simple step-by-step process. Often, we rattle off directions to our children and expect them to immediately get with the program.

In education, teachers are taught how to scaffold lessons to ensure student success.

Scaffolding is a process where teachers break down information into digestible chunks. They model how to think about information, or they demonstrate how to solve a problem. Then, teachers support students through the process. Teachers are available to reteach parts of the lesson as needed, positive correction is provided and questions are encouraged. As students demonstrate mastery, the teacher pulls back accordingly and the students become independent problem-solvers of similar problems.

The Conscious Discipline® acronym M.A.P. is designed to help parents scaffold information in order to teach their children how to follow directions with success!



# Social Worker continued.....

## Here's how it works:

### **M stands for MODEL**

Modeling means you demonstrate WHAT TO DO and HOW TO DO it. A helpful Scaffolding Technique to support modeling is called "Think Aloud." You literally think OUT LOUD, modeling how to think about, handle or problem-solve a process or situation.

Say you happen to have a captive audience in your messy kitchen. Take that as an opportunity to Think Aloud! You may say, "Hmm... I have dirty dishes on the table and dirty dishes in the sink. How can I handle this? Where can I begin? I know! First, I'm going to rinse the dirty dishes that are in the sink and put them in the dishwasher. Next, I'm going to clear the table. Then, I'm going to rinse those dirty dishes and finish by putting them into the dishwasher."

### **A stands for ADD PICTURES**

As Stephen Covey often said, "Begin with the end in mind." Show your children a picture of what their rooms look like when YOU consider it clean. A helpful Scaffolding Technique to support Adding Pictures is to always show your children the outcome or product before they do it.

You could say, "When your room matches this picture, then you will know you are done." Pictures of the concrete process, or a Graphic Organizer, are an additional resource for younger children or children with extra or different needs. List the steps and add a visual cue per step. Use clip art or pictures. Post the visual aid at your child's eye level to ensure it is "readable" to your child so they don't feel embarrassed or controlled. Older children who need additional support often prefer a checklist. There are a number of apps designed for this purpose, or you can make a good ole' fashioned checklist and teach your child to check off as each task as it is done!

### **P stands for PRACTICE**

Let's get this out of the way: Practice does NOT make perfect, but consistent practice sure does make progress! Guide your child through each step of the modeled process with a picture posted nearby of the finished product or a "readable" step by step guide. Make it "readable" by adding pictures and posting it at your child's eye-level.

For younger children use transition and sequencing words like, "FIRST, you put your dirty clothes in the hamper. What does your picture schedule say is NEXT?" Or, "You put your stuffed animals on your bed. What did you do BEFORE that?" Referring to the picture schedule when you ask these questions teaches your child that the picture schedule is a helpful resource.

For older children, ask specific, guiding and open-ended questions and PAUSE! Open-ended questions cannot be answered with a yes or no and steer clear of asking, "Why?" Pausing allows the child to reflect, think and problem-solve, all of which exercise Executive Functioning Skills! Helpful open-ended questions may sound like, "It looks like you are in the middle of sorting through those Pokémon cards. What do you think is the best way to store your cards?" Or, "I notice you have a couple of extra volleyball practices this week. What is your plan for having a clean uniform for each practice?"

### **Remember to Differentiate**

Every good teacher knows we must differentiate instruction to provide the most effective learning experiences possible. Our children may learn at varied paces, require more or less support and require information be taught in different ways. Differentiating our instruction as parents means we deliver our lessons, even on how to clean up a room, in a way that will reach our children. It may take a few shots, especially if we have a pattern resistant child... the ones we say march to their own beat!

No matter who your child is, it is your job to try and be consistent, structured and encouraging. Mistakes will happen. Use each one as an opportunity to learn. Most of all, have FUN because some day your children will be living in their own clean homes and you may find yourself longing for a little mess.



# Program Assistant

Greetings Families and Friends,

I hope this finds everyone doing well and enjoying the warmer weather.

As some of you know, we had bus issues that compelled us to double two routes into one route. I know these types of changes interrupt everyday schedules and I want to thank parents and families affected. I appreciate your collaboration, flexibility and patience through this challenge.

With that said, DEC is very pleased to have received a brand new "Division of Early Childhood" bus. The addition of this bus to our fleet allows us to return to three routes in which will take effect March 31, 2025. I trust you are pleased with the good news and knowing your child will be on the bus for shorter length of time.

Our Parent Resource (PRC) building continues to be under construction. I thank all the parents who have participated in the "take home" activities the Family Service Providers have been sending home each month. This helps us to continue accumulating In-Kind for our program. You are always more than welcome to stop by and visit the center, please sign in at the front office.

## REMINDERS:

1. Adhere to the 5 MPH school speed zone and practice pedestrian safety while on campus.
2. Ensure children are not alone in a vehicle.
3. Do not leave your vehicle running unattended.
4. No outside food or drinks on campus. Thank you for keeping children free of allergens.

The program will be closed on Friday, April 18th for Good Friday. School will resume on Monday, April 21st. Have a Happy Easter Holiday!

As always, if you need assistance with anything, please feel free to call the front office @ 505-552-6544. Have a great month of April, let us finish the last quarter of the school year strong.

Iris Gallegos, Program Assistant  
505-552-6544 ext. 5100  
[i.gallegos@lagunaed.net](mailto:i.gallegos@lagunaed.net)





# ERSEA Coordinator

Greetings DEC Families,

Happy spring! Hope you are well and enjoying the longer days. April is here and it is that time of the year for DEC to accept school applications for the upcoming school year. The application is available online at the LDOE website ([www.lagunaed.net](http://www.lagunaed.net)) soon. Please be sure to enroll your child early for selection and placement in the classrooms as spots fill quickly.

A friendly reminder, to please submit documents with your child's application for the new school year. These documents will include:

- Birth certificate (if you provided a copy last year, you do not need to provide another one)
- Current immunization record
- Current well child check
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) 1040 tax form or W-2 from 2024
- Keep in mind these documents will also be required when your child transitions to elementary school. It is important to have these documents available for future use.
- As last year, documents can be dropped off at the front office with Maddie or Iris, they can be faxed to: 505.796.6909, or they can be emailed to me at [me.sarracino@lagunaed.net](mailto:me.sarracino@lagunaed.net).

If you have any questions, please contact the school at 505.552.6544.

Thank you for your time.

Have a wonderful Easter,  
Melanie Sarracino

# We present to you DECs new bus!





# LAGUNA DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



## **EARLY REGISTRATION**

### **SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026**

**DEC STAFF WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ASSISTANCE IN  
THE FRONT OFFICE**

**8AM - 1PM**

**Thursday- 04.03.2025**

**Wednesday- 04.09.2025**

**Wednesday- 04.16.2025**

**Tuesday- 04.22.2025**

**Wednesday- 04.30.2025**

#### **Documents needed:**

- 2024 W-2 or 1040 Tax Forms
- Birth Certificate
- Current Well Child Check
- Current Immunization Record

**More Info: Call (505) 552-6544**

Applications available online @ [dec.lagunaed.net](http://dec.lagunaed.net)



# Happy Easter

*See you all next month!*

*~ DEC Staff*